

Community Development Block Grants (Disaster Recovery Assistance)

Nature of Program: HUD provides flexible grants to help cities, counties, parishes, and states recover from presidentially declared disasters, especially in low- and moderate-income areas. HUD publishes allocations and program requirements in notices in the Federal Register. Generally, CDBG requirements apply unless modified by an appropriations statute, waived, or supplanted by alternative requirements. CDBG Disaster Recovery Assistance is also subject to requirements of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Stafford Act).

When major disasters occur, Congress may appropriate additional funding for the CDBG program as Disaster Recovery grants to rebuild the affected areas and bring crucial seed money to stimulate the recovery process. Because CDBG funds a broad range of activities, CDBG Disaster Recovery assistance helps communities and neighborhoods that otherwise might not recover due to limits on other resources. Disaster Recovery grants supplement disaster programs of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Small Business Administration, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Applicant Eligibility: Appropriations language determines applicant eligibility. Historically, recipients have included states and local governments in places that have been designated by the President of the United States as major disaster areas pursuant to the Stafford Act. Some supplemental appropriations have restricted funding solely to states. HUD generally awards noncompetitive, nonrecurring Disaster Recovery grants by a formula that considers disaster recovery needs unmet by other Federal disaster assistance programs.

Legal Authority: Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5301, et seq.). Public Laws: 113-2, 112-55, 111-212, 110-329, 110-252, 110-116, 109-234, 109-148, 108-324, 107-206, 107-117, 107-73, 107-38, 106-31, 105-277, 105-276, 105-174, 105-18, 104-134, 104-19, 103-327, 103-211, 103-75, and 103-50. Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121, et seq.).

Administering Office: Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Washington, DC 20410.

Information Sources: Administering office and HUD field offices.

On the Web:

http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/comm_planning/communitydevelopment/programs/drsi

Current Status: Active.